

A Message from General Treasurer Paul J. Tavares



Dear Friend:

In order to protect consumers, RI law requires businesses to turn over inactive financial accounts to the Office of the General Treasurer. Currently, we are holding millions in unclaimed property. Some of this money could belong to you!

Many people do not realize they have unclaimed property. To make it easy for you to determine whether or not you may have unclaimed property, we have included an "Unclaimed Property Quiz" in this brochure. If you answer yes to any of the questions, complete the inquiry form and mail it to our Unclaimed Property Division. Soon after, we will notify you as to whether or not we are holding your unclaimed property.

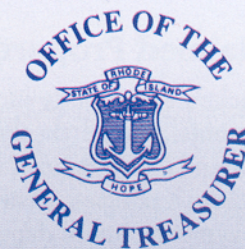
I also want to give you a warning. Some organizations, known as "heirfinders," may contact you and offer to recover your unclaimed property for a fee. Please remember that this is a service provided free of charge by the Office of the General Treasurer. So hurry, there may be treasure waiting for you!

Sincerely,

Paul J. Tavares
General Treasurer



Office of the General Treasurer Unclaimed Property Division
P.O. Box 1435 • Providence, RI 02901
(401)222-6505 • (401)222-3399 TDD
www.treasury.state.ri.us
e-mail: ups@treasury.state.ri.us



Do We Have Your Unclaimed Property?



What is Unclaimed Property?



Unclaimed property includes bank accounts, payroll checks, stocks and dividends, safe deposit boxes, life insurance policies, customer deposits or overpayments, utility deposits and certificates of deposit that have been left unclaimed by rightful owners.

Generally, after three years of inactivity, financial assets are considered abandoned, or unclaimed property.

Why is unclaimed property turned over to the Office of the General Treasurer?

Unclaimed property is turned over to the General Treasurer to protect consumers. Rhode Island passed a law requiring businesses holding inactive financial assets on behalf of another person to turn these assets over to the General Treasurer after a certain period of time. The General Treasurer is the custodian of this property.

Unclaimed property is turned over to the state only after the company holding it has notified the owner by mail at the last known address. If the company cannot locate the owner, or if the owner does not respond, the holdings are turned over to the state.

How do I know if the state is holding my money?

There are a variety of ways to find out whether or not the General Treasurer is holding your property:

Call the Unclaimed Property Division or use the attached Inquiry Form. See the back of this brochure for address and phone number.

Search the General Treasurer's Unclaimed Property List. The list, released each spring in statewide and daily newspapers, advertises those accounts turned over to the Treasury in the preceding year.

Search the entire unclaimed property database of names on Treasurer Tavares' website at www.treasury.state.ri.us



Look for the Unclaimed Property Division representatives at state fairs, festivals and other local events.



If the state is holding my money, how do I claim it?

To claim your property, contact our office by phone, mail or e-mail and a claim form with all the information you need will be sent to you. You will need documentation proving you are the owner of, or heir to, these funds. Most claims take approximately two to three weeks to process after we receive the proper paperwork.



Is there a time limit on claiming this property?

There is no time limit on claiming your unclaimed property. The assets turned over to the state remain the property of the owner, or the heirs of the owner, and are only guarded by the state. An owner's assets never become the property of the state.

What if someone offers to find my unclaimed property for a fee?

Be cautious. The Office of the General Treasurer provides this service free of charge. Therefore, you should not pay someone else to search for your property.

Inquiry Form

Yes!....Tell me if I have unclaimed accounts.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone No.: _____

Social Security #: _____

Former Address _____

If you are an heir, also include deceased relative's
name and former address: _____



PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Unclaimed Property Division
Office of the General Treasurer
PO BOX 1435
Providence RI 02901-1435



The Unclaimed Property Quiz



Have you ever opened and forgotten a bank account for yourself or your child?

Have you ever moved and not received your utility deposit refund?

Have you forgotten to cash interest or dividend checks for an account, securities, or certificates of deposit (CD)?

Have you ever left a job and not received your last paycheck?

Have you ever moved and forgotten to notify companies of your new address?



Have you forgotten about a safe deposit box you have rented?

Have you forgotten about any inheritances?

Have you ever received a check and left it uncashed?

Have you been married or divorced and forgotten to notify companies of your name change?



If you answered yes to any of these questions, you may be the owner of unclaimed property!